

CoC Workgroups

Our workgroups accomplish specific tasks to conceive, test, and implement policies and practices that improve how providers work together to make services more efficient.

HOUSING FORWARD	Mission	Objectives	Purpose	Workgroup Representatives	Meeting Details
Racial Equity	Drive and support Racial Equity within our Homeless Response System & By our Homeless Response System while centering and amplifying the perspective and voice of people with lived experience. Create and maintain a culture of accountability utilizing appropriate tools, training, and regular review of relevant data stratified along racial lines for system performance, funding,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase understanding of racial equity + homelessness across our CoC & in the larger community Eliminate racial disparities/inequities in service delivery Eliminate racial disparities/inequities in housing placements (length of time) Incorporate racial equity analysis across CoC workgroups in plans & outcomes Increase engagement and inclusion of individuals with lived experience in all aspects of CoC planning and systems Revamp Racial Equity workgroup to act as a thought partner in all workgroup plans & processes 	Track progress on CoC-wide equity goals; design and implement strategies for reducing disparities in housing outcomes and addressing system inequities	Amber Austin (Housing Forward, Chair) Dr David Woody (Exec Council Liaison) Contact: Amber.Austin@housingforwardntx.org for more information	Monthly, Third Tuesday 1 to 2PM
Veterans	The community achieves and maintains an effective end to veteran homelessness.	Reduce length of time from identification to housing to 90 days Ensure rate of inflow matched outflow Decrease total number of active BNL veterans Identify and address racial disparities in housing outcomes	Track progress and support goal of ending veteran's homelessness; Create alignment on the core elements of the strategy to end/reduce Veteran homelessness and the process for decision making	Leah Williams (Housing Forward, Chair) Dr David Woody (Exec Council) Contact: Leah.Williams@housingforwardntx.org for more information	Leadership Workgroup Every Other Thursday 9 to 10:30 AM
Rapid Rehousing	Households experiencing homelessness can move directly into permanent housing in the community using a combination of financial assistance and housing-focused services	Increase housing placements Improve long term housing stability Build capacity of new RRH workforce Identify and address racial disparities in housing outcomes and access	Support the implementation/operationalize new RRH projects through alignment of process and resources; to enhance service delivery capacity	Luis Acuna-Pilgrim (Housing Forward, Chair) Brenda Snitzer (Exec Council) Contact: Luis.Acuna@housingforwardntx.org for more information	Monthly, Third Tuesday 10:30 to 12 PM
Coordinated Access System	To connect all people experiencing homelessness to the right housing intervention through a standardized matching and referral process.	Improve equity in access and outcomes in CAS Increase efficiency and effectiveness of system flow Build provider capacity Refine and scale CAS process, policy and tools to improve effectiveness	Monitor the efficacy and effectiveness of CAS; to synthesize practice to create and modify CAS policies in support of improved functioning	Rebecca Hickom (Housing Forward) Daniel Roby, (Exec Council) Contact: Rebecca.hickom@housingforwardntx.org for more information	Monthly, Third Tuesday 9 to 10:30 AM
Permanent Supportive Housing	Households experiencing chronic homelessness have access to permanent, affordable housing and comprehensive services to remain stably housing	Expand PSH Options Increase Transitions from PSH to Permanent Housing (Move On) Improve Long Term Housing Stability Identify and Address Racial Disparities in Housing Outcomes	Implement PSH refinements and support improved PSH performance	Luis Acuna-Pilgrim and Ayanna Robertson (Housing Forward, Co-Chairs) Yolanda Jones (Exec Council) Contact: Ayanna.robertson@housingforwardntx.org For more information	Monthly, Fourth Wednesday 2 - 3:30 PM
Youth	A youth-informed network of activists, advocates, community and faith-based partners, and other stakeholders committed to a relentless focus on making instances of homelessness and housing insecurity rare, brief, and non-recurring for youth and young adults in Dallas and Collin Counties. We are devoted to raising awareness of these issues to combat persistent institutional policies incriminating and subjecting them to barriers that impede their growth.	Develop a Youth and Young Adult "System Vision" Identify and engage all literally homeless and at-risk Youth Streamline Access to Housing for Youth	Facilitate the collaboration of stakeholders to ensure youth homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring	Leah Williams (Housing Forward) Karen Hughes (Exec Council) Contact: Leah.Williams@housingforwardntx.org for more information	Monthly, Third Wednesday 10am - 11am

Street Outreach	The CoC has a coordinated street outreach component of the rehousing system to identify, assess, serve, and rehouse all people who are unsheltered in Dallas and Collin Counties.	Build a Coordinated Outreach Response	Develop a comprehensive, coordinated street outreach response to unsheltered homeless	Hannah Sims (Housing Forward, Chair) Brenda Snitzer (Exec Council) Contact: Hannah.sims@housingforwardntx.org for more information	Leadership Workgroup, Every other Tuesday 2 - 3 PM
		Reduce the number of encampments			
		Increase housing placements from unsheltered locations			
		Identify and address racial disparities in outreach and housing outcomes			
HMIS	The CoC has complete and accurate data on homelessness and is maximizing the use of data in system planning and performance improvement.	1) Understanding/Evaluating CoC Data and Report 2) Promoting Data Quality 3) Socializing Data in the CoC and to the Community At Large 4) Increasing Sources of Data for HMIS/Data Warehouse	The HMIS Workgroup exists to support the work of the HMIS Lead Agency and the All Neighbors Coalition relating to data	Sarah Masih, Catholic Charities & Hayedeh Jahansouz, The Bridge (Co-Chairs) Freda Nelms (Housing Forward) Dr David Woody (Exec Council) Contact: Freda.nelms@housingforwardntx.org for more information	Monthly, Third Tuesday 2 to 3:30 PM
Diversion	Drive the equitable and effective implementation of Diversion as a core component of the housing crisis service system.	Implement Diversion as a core component of the Housing Crisis System in Dallas and Collin Counties. Decrease new entries into the homeless response system. Decrease the average length of time a household experiences homelessness by ensuring that housing problem solving conversations and short term financial assistance are available at all access points of the homeless service system.	Support and develop the implementation of diversion as a core component of the housing crisis system.	Amber Austin (Housing Forward) Ellen Magnis (Exec Council) Contact: Amber.Austin@housingforwardntx.org for more information	Diversion Implementation Workgroup meets weekly on Wednesdays at 11 AM
Families	A collaborative group of stakeholders across Dallas and Collin County dedicated to creating a homeless response system that effectively serves families with children by making homelessness and housing insecurity rare, brief, and non- recurring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No (or few) Unsheltered Families Identified in the PIT Count Effective Diversion to Limit Inflow into Shelter Rehouse Within 30 Days of Entry to Homeless System Safe, Permanent Housing Available for All Within 30 Days of Housing Instability 	Provide input and guidance on policy and practice refinements.	Trudy Hernandez (Housing Forward) Ellen Magnis (Exec Council) Contact: Trudy.hernandez@housingforwardntx.org for more information	Meeting Times Vary
Landlord Engagement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating on the sale and property visits (we're often going to the same places!) Agency housing locators bringing information to Housing Forward about properties with vacancies, so that OUR team can negotiate a bigger block of vacancies and hold blocks of units Making the centralized database available to ALL case managers (training will begin THIS week, and we are in the process of purchasing online unit mgt software for the 	We are creating a 1 stop shop system for all COC housing providers to access. The more units held, the more clients we can house.	Marsha Jackson (Housing Forward) Contact: Marsha.jackson@housingforwardntx.org for more information	Every Tuesday at 9am